Dear Dick, 6/18/74

Progress reports, with more care in addressing.

Howard phoned me last night. He has returned from arranging for his accomodations for his first year in law school. Irrelevant but for your information, when someone at Lippincott heard he has a JFK book coming out this fall they asked for paperback rights merely on an editor's description. He has completed a thesis into which I steered him which is a definitive account of the early days of the Cold War, something really new on it. It should make a good book with little or no editing and he has already submitted it under the contract. He has no agent.

He has completed much more than we will be able to use by way of rearranging the transcripts, has them all or almost all pasted up, and we will get together next week to do two things: xerox and send you a copy; and cut and then fit what you want, the juxtaposed quotes.

He and I have both assmebled what we believe will be enough of the official version s to be juxtaposed, so that also can be facsimile. Where we do not have them I have learned where all are available at little cost. We will also be going over the very considerable file I have from which to draw. If we find what we think we should use and do not have those originals we will then proceed to get them. In short, not bad progress, more than you can use, and more than enough for you to give to your college-professor friend you said you would use for the final cutting. Perhaps we will give you all, uncut, as you will have with the xeroxes, so you and prof can make final decisions without our judgement intruding. More work but makes for possibility of better final product.

From now until Monday Howard will be finishing up what he can prior to coming here. He'll be here all next week. I have to be away next Wednesday only. If you or your prof want to come and go over this with us and let me know what juxtapositional material you will still want I can get and send that and give what Howard and I have, with the official texts I have bought to go with the Bantam cooies we used for the rough work. (I bought three, two for cutting up for shooting because both sides are printed and one for emergencies. This is much cheaper, easier and faster than xeroxing from one.)

Howard has a subject, which you may remember is my concept instead of chapter, heading for one group I hope you like as much as I do, "Le Presidency, c'est Moi." I think we can find enough quotes if you'd like them, Nixon giving us titles.

I have been soliciting opinion about the proposed title, The Sayings of Chairman Richard. There seems to be a feeling by the serious-minded that some students may not take the title as a spoof and will think the whole thing is irresponsible by this misapprehension. I suggest a subtitle like Nixon v Nixon. I still think the cover should use the presidential seal, as I did with the government's on the Whitewash cover and with it established the right.

Every spare minute is on the Watergate book and it is coming along. I'd say what I have on paper, unread, will retype into not less than 200 double-spaced pages. I have been ripped off. I don't know all that has been taken but it includes an entire envelope of unpublished Senate/CIA/White House secret documents. I have adequate notes on the most essential. I may be able to replace them but not easily. I'll try. Some tapes of interviews are also gone. This has never happened before so I report it as a change that may reflect a different kind of interest in me? Two overnight guests, one a friend the other a trusted reporter, are the only possibilities other than a bag job when I was away. I don't know how, but I suspect from some of the reporters who were not able to use what I tried to feed them long ago, before I started writing, a Member of the Judiciary (Impeachment) Committee has called to ask for help and is coming. This confronts me with the old problem of giving away free what I have worked so hard and so long to obtain. I guess that I'll have to be a citizen first again, but with no underwriting it

is not a pleasant way for the destitute to live or work. However, if he is interested in what I have and can hold off using it, it could help a book much. Especially if I believe and as I believe this rip-off reflects I have what could make a or the difference. That this Congressman called personally, not through his secretary, and spoke elliptically, without cuing on that from me, makes me believe he used other than his regular office phone and understands the realities. I know little about him.

Something truly extraordinary has happened on JFK work. I have obvained something I have been trying to get as long as I have known you. It is fantastic! First of all it is merchantable, it is a TOP SECRET transcript, with that stamp on every page. Its contents are even today like nothing I've ever seen. I'll not go into detail except to say that it is the ultimate on the CIA, FBI, Hoover and Dulles, and all from the horses' mouths - thei own words never expected to be seen. It also should be enough to end the official mythology about the assassination by what it says of the character of the non-investigation (and with intent) and of the fact suppressed. Bud Fensterwald and Jim Lesar, two lawyers with whom I work, plus another lawyer, came here and read it over the weekend. All agree that it would make an exceptional book if done in facsimile. My idea is extra cool, with a short foreword on the transcript; one on the secret documents with which I will illuminate, unpublished secret documents; and one on some non-secret documents that are entirely unknown. They are trying to arrange the financing for an instant underground book. We are all certain that if nowhere else there will be a residual sale in colleges for years. We all believe that if it can be done fast enough, it could influence current legislation and current court proceedings - Watergate! (Bud represents McCord.) So, if I didn't have too much to do before...

There has been a Hollywood approach to me on my King assassination work. I am to hear something today. If this goes through there will be no problem in paying the printer.

If you have never assembled a book for offset, it is simple. Any commercial artist can do it. Your boys could once they are shown how. I have simplified it with blank sheets printed with margins in a blue color that the film doesn't pick up.

Hastily,